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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3396
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 7336
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 4842
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 6041
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 4327
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 6806
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 4083
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 7649
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2682
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0820
RUEHRG/AMCONSUL RECIFE 8995
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 7178
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 3432
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 000093

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/BSC, WHA/AND, INR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/22/2019

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SUBJECT: BRAZIL'S LULA OFFERS BOLIVIA'S MORALES TREATMENT
FOR TUMOR

Classified By: Ambassador Clifford M. Sobel, Reason 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) In a conversation with Ambassador Sobel following the January 15, 2009 La Paz meeting between Brazilian President Lula and Bolivian President Morales, Brazilian Defense Minister Nelson Jobim (protect) confirmed an earlier rumor that Morales is suffering from a serious sinus tumor. Jobim told the Ambassador that Lula had offered Morales an examination and treatment at a Sao Paulo hospital. Although there have been public reports that Morales needs surgery for "acute sinusitis," and related otitis and headaches, according to Jobim his problems in fact are caused by a serious tumor and the surgery will be an effort to remove it. Treatment has been put off, however, until after the constitutional referendum scheduled for January 25. Jobim, who attended the meeting between Lula and Morales, commented that the tumor might explain why Morales has seemed unfocused and not his usual self at this and other recent meetings.

SOBEL